

Categorical Exclusion Documentation

A. Background

BLM Office: El Centro Field Office
1661 S. 4th Street El Centro, CA 92243

DOI-BLM-CA-D070-2016-0019
CACA-56456

Project Title: Tallgrass Photo Shoot

Location: Ocotillo Wind Energy Farm (OWEF)

Description and Rationale, including any Stipulations

Tallgrass Pictures has requested a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) film permit in order to photograph models on public lands within Imperial County, California. Scheduled photo shoot of these scenes will be on Friday, November 20, 2015.

Tallgrass will be photographing models dressed in construction worker outfits on the designated BLM routes within the Ocotillo Wind Energy Facility (OWEF) boundaries utilizing the windmills as a backdrop.

The OWEF Facility Manager, Tony Welsh, has been contacted with a request for permission to film within the OWEF boundaries, and Tony has given his permission via email which is located in the case file.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

This action conforms to the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan, 1980, as amended because it is specifically provided for or is clearly consistent with the Resource Management Plan (RMP) objectives and decisions as follows:

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions:

LUP Name: California Desert Conservation Area

Date Approved: 1980

The CDCA plan designated the lands as Class L. Class L is a limited use class. These lands are managed to protect sensitive, natural, scenic, ecological, and cultural resource values. They provide for generally lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple uses that do not significantly diminish resource values.

C. Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

The action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9:

E(19): Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorization for uses such as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes

rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate for this action because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply (see attached).

I considered this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan(s) and that no further environmental analysis is required.

D. Signature

//Signed//
Thomas F. Zale
Field Manager

11/17/15
Date

E. Contact

For more information, contact Victoria Hernandez, BLM Business Support Assistant at 760.337.4436 or via email at vhernandez@blm.gov.